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**In the claims:**

**Please amend claims 1 – 10 as follows:**

1. (currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver, comprising:
- a shutter frame;
  - at least one louver having left and right ends and mounted in said shutter frame for rotation about a pivot axis;
  - at least one louver mounting pin mounted along the pivot axis of the louver and projecting out one of said ends of said louver, wherein said mounting pin rotates with said louver;
  - a receptacle on said shutter frame which receives said projecting louver mounting pin; and
  - a band brake element mounted over said pin and inside said receptacle, said band brake element applying a radially inwardly directed force against said louver mounting pin, said band brake element having first and second ends, wherein at least one of said first and second ends of said band brake element rotates with said mounting pin.

2. (Currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~said band brake element has first and second ends,~~ and said receptacle defines a stop for stopping the rotation of at least one of said brake element ends so as to increase frictional resistance to rotation of said mounting pin as said mounting pin begins to rotate.

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3. (Currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 2, wherein said receptacle further defines a second stop for stopping the rotation of the other of said brake element ends.

4. (Currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 2, wherein said band brake element is a coil spring which compresses radially inwardly against the pin and wherein said first and second brake element ends project outwardly.

5. (Currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 3, wherein said second stop for stopping the rotation of the other of said brake element ends limits said increase of frictional resistance to rotation between said band brake element and said mounting pin.

6. (Currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver, comprising:

a shutter frame;

a plurality of louvers pivotably mounted for rotation inside said frame, each of said louvers defining an axis of rotation and being pivotable about its respective axis of rotation; and

means for generating progressively increasing the resistance to said the rotation of said louvers as in response to said rotation of said louvers are rotated

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about their respective axes ~~said axis~~.

7. (Currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 6, wherein each of said louvers includes left and right outwardly projecting mounting pins, which define said respective an axis of rotation; and wherein said means for generating progressively increasing the resistance to said rotation includes at least one band brake mounted on the shutter frame, surrounding its respective mounting pin, and applying a radially inwardly-directed force to resist the rotation of said respective mounting pin.

8. (Currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 7, wherein said band brake has at least one end and said shutter frame defines a receptacle having a stop which stops said one end from rotation with said mounting pin as said band brake begins to rotate with its respective mounting pin, causing an increase in said inwardly-directed force.

9. (Currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 6, and further comprising means for limiting said progressive increase in said resistance to a set maximum, wherein the user can still rotate said louvers by overcoming said maximum resistance.

10. (Currently amended) A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 7 8, and further comprising means for limiting said progressive

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increase in said resistance to a set maximum, wherein the user can still rotate said louvers by overcoming said maximum resistance, wherein said means for limiting said progressive increase includes said band brake having a second end, and said receptacle having a second stop, which stops the rotation of said second end.